

## Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 L-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

DODE-00 COME-00 IGA-01 /087 W

----- 008083

R 140635Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4984

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

UNCLAS HONG KONG 5338

RCMO HONG KONG SEND FOR RCMO SINGAPORE AND RCMO TAIPEI

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: COMMODITY ASSISTANCE TO GVN AND GKR

REF: STATE 111154

1. IN REPLY PARA 4 REFTEL, FOLLOWING ARE FACTS CONCERNING  
LOADING OF LASH BARGES AT SAIGON.

A. 16 CENTRAL GULF BARGES ARRIVED SAIGON WITH RICE, FERTILIZER  
AND GENERAL CARGO, AND WERE SITTING EMPTY AWAITING PICKUP BY  
LASH SHIP OR FLASH.

B. AT REQUEST USAID GSO, ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE WITH LOCAL  
AGENT, CENTRAL GULF LINES TO LOAD HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS AND POVS  
ONTO THE BARGES ON REGULAR LINER TERMS USING GOVERNMENT  
BILLS OF LADING. 12 OF THE 16 BARGES WERE LOADED.

C. ORIGINAL SCHEDULE WAS FOR EIGHT OF THE BARGES TO BE PICKED  
UP ABOUT 12 MAY AND EIGHT ABOUT 18 MAY BY FLASH. HOWEVER, WE  
WERE INFORMED BY SAIGON AGENT THAT THE JAPANESE CREWS OF THE  
FLASH TUGS REFUSED TO SAIL TO SAIGON.

D. SAIGON AGENT, CENTRAL GULF, WAS UNABLE TO OBTAIN LOCAL TUGS  
TO MOVE LASH BARGES FROM SAIGON TO VUNG TAU AND THENCE TO GREEN  
HARBOUR DUE TO ARRIVE 12 MILES OFF-SHORE VIETNAM ON APRIL 25.  
ACCORDINGLY, FRINK MADE ARRANGEMENTS WITH SEAPAC THROUGH THE  
EVACUATION CONTROL CENTER AND MILITARY SEALIFT COMMAND  
OFFICE, SAIGON, TO USE THE TUGS OCEOLA AND ASIATIC STAMINA,  
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WHICH WERE STANDING BY FOR REFUGEE EVACUATION, TO MOVE THE

BARGES TO VUNG TAU AND THENCE TO THE GREEN HARBOUR, WHICH REMAINED IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS WHILE LOADING. THIS OPERATION WAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED ABOUT APRIL 26.

2. FRINK FEELS THAT CENTRAL GULF SHOULD BE INFORMED THAT THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF THE USG, THE BARGES WERE REMOVED FROM SAIGON AND RETURNED TO THE OWNERS. THE OWNERS WERE UNABLE, AND HAD NO FIRM ARRANGEMENTS MADE, TO REMOVE THE BARGES PRIOR TO ARRIVAL OF THE GREEN HARBOUR. THE TUGS USED TO MOVE THE BARGES WERE UNDER CHARTER TO THE USG. THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF THE USG, THE OWNERS/UNDERWRITERS REALIZED A SAVINGS OF ABOUT US\$960,000 AT THE ESTIMATED COST OF US\$60,000 PER BARGE.

3. MR. MINH, THE SAIGON LOCAL AGENT FOR CENTRAL GULF LINES, IS PRESENTLY AT CAMP PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA, AND SHOULD BE ASKED TO MAKE STATEMENT.  
GETSINGER

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